

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** :  
 :  
 **v.** : **MAGISTRATE NO. 20-MJ-1000**  
 :  
 **PETER FRATUS** :

On June 6, 2020, PETER FRATUS threatened the life of the Philadelphia Police Commissioner using vile, racist, and misogynistic language. He has a long history of assaulting and threatening law enforcement officers, political figures, and other individuals based on their gender, religion, or race. At the time of the June 6, 2020 threat, he was on probation for assaulting and threatening to kill law enforcement officers near his home in Massachusetts. Because no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required and/or the safety of the community, the government moves pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142(e) and (f) for a detention hearing and pretrial detention of the defendant.

On or about June 6, 2020, at approximately 11:18 p.m. and 11:19 p.m., an individual, later identified as PETER FRATUS, sent two emails to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner email address. Both emails were sent from email address "617slave2btrained@gmail.com" with the username "Kevin Johnson". The first email contained subject "Answer the phone" with body "Calling the police now for an emergency. No answer. Dirty n\*\*\*\*\*! Find a n\*\*\*\*\* hang a n\*\*\*\*\*. Jews into the ovens!!!" The second email contained subject "Find a n\*\*\*\*\* kill a

n\*\*\*\*\*” with body “Where does police chief live?”<sup>1</sup>

The header information of both emails showed that the emails were sent from an iPhone with IOS 13.5.1 and that both emails were sent from Comcast IP address 174.63.29.163. Upon investigation, IP address 174.63.29.163 resolved to Comcast Cable Communications in Barnstable, MA. The email address “617slave2btrained@gmail.com” was associated with two Skype accounts: (a) User Name: live:617slave2btrained, Display Name: 617slave2btrained and (b) User Name: stupidc\*\*\*617, Display Name: Stupid C\*\*\*.

Based upon subscriber information obtained from Comcast and Apple, on June 8, 2020, FBI agents, Massachusetts State Police officers, and local police officers interviewed PETER FRATUS at his home in West Dennis, Massachusetts. Prior to the interview, the Massachusetts State Police advised the FBI that FRATUS had been threatening a Massachusetts law enforcement official by, inter alia, leaving voicemails on her phone during which he allegedly threatened to slit her throat. During the June 8, 2020 interview, Fratus initially denied sending the threatening e-mails. He later admitted in that interview that he sent the threatening messages to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner and the Massachusetts law enforcement official. FRATUS further admitted that he “crossed the line.”

## **B. Prior Conduct**

Upon further investigation, the threats made to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner were not an isolated incident, but part of a knowing and intentional pattern of threatening, assaultive, racist, and misogynistic behavior on the part of PETER FRATUS. The victims of his

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<sup>1</sup> In order not to propagate FRATUS’s vile, racist, and misogynistic ideology, the government has redacted certain words with asterisks throughout this pleading. To be sure, FRATUS did not use any asterisks in his messages.

threats and assaults were often law enforcement officers, political figures, and persons apparently targeted because of their race, gender or religion.

### **1. March 9, 2019 Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer**

On March 9, 2019, police officers with the Dennis Police Department arrived at a store in West Dennis, Massachusetts. A store employee had reported that a male, later identified as PETER FRATUS, walked into the store, took a towel for sale, wiped his bloody hands on the towel, and then left it on the counter.

When police officers approached FRATUS to investigate, FRATUS became belligerent towards the officers. The officers asked from where the blood on his hands came. FRATUS replied that he was just in a fight and punched someone. When the police officers advised FRATUS that he was not free to leave, FRATUS replied, "go f\*\*\* yourself" and other profanity-laced phrases. FRATUS kicked both officers and drove his hip into the left leg of one officer while the officers tried to arrest him.

During the ride to the police station, FRATUS became belligerent again. FRATUS stated that he hated cops and he was glad Sean Gannon was shot in the face and killed.<sup>2</sup> FRATUS then stated to the officer, "In two days that will be you. You'll be f\*\*\*ing dead. So will your wife and kids. Shot in the face." The officer asked FRATUS if he was threatening his family, and FRATUS stated, "You'll see. You'll be f\*\*\*ing dead. Just wait."

When FRATUS complained that he was injured during arrest, the officers transported him to the hospital for evaluation. During transportation to the hospital, FRATUS told the

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<sup>2</sup> Sean Gannon was a police officer in Yarmouth, Massachusetts who was shot in the face and killed while attempting to serve a warrant on April 12, 2018.

officers that he was going to rape their wives and children. FRATUS also stated that the officer's bullet proof vest was not enough to save his life and that he would be dead soon. While a doctor was examining him at the hospital, FRATUS struck one officer and attempted to grab an officer's firearm.

After returning to the police station, FRATUS began smashing his head on the cell door, causing his head to bleed. While at the police station, FRATUS continued to reference the death of Officer Gannon. FRATUS indicated that he was somehow responsible for Officer Gannon's death and told the attending officer that he would be the next one killed.

FRATUS pleaded guilty to assaulting a law enforcement officer and related charges. The court sentenced him to 90 days in jail and 18 months' probation.

## **2. July 10, 2018 Threats to an African-American Congresswoman**

On July 5, 2018, PETER FRATUS left a two minute voicemail on the phone of an African-American Congresswoman. During the phone call, FRATUS said that the Congresswoman (whom he referred to as a "dumb f\*\*\*ing n\*\*\*\*\*") should be careful where she goes to eat because "maybe she will be assaulted." FRATUS said that "you are all a bunch of dumb n\*\*\*\*\*s who were brought here on slave ships, you should be grateful for it, stop being unacceptable and ungrateful, before you guys get whipped again, or maybe we will just have to f\*\*\*ing put you in the f\*\*\*ing ropes where you belong." FRATUS continued that the Congresswoman should shut her mouth and get in her place or "we will start lynching n\*\*\*\*\*s again." FRATUS said that the Congresswoman should shut her mouth or "go back to Africa where you f\*\*\*ing belong." FRATUS then explained that he was going to "resist" the Congresswoman, "we're going to resist to her f\*\*\*ing face, we're going to resist to her home,

we're going to resist to her children, we're going to resist to every f\*\*\*ing n\*\*\*\*\* we see, until they start hanging from f\*\*\*ing trees where you all belong, lynching has come back." FRATUS concluded, "Look forward to those nooses hanging from the trees, you dumb f\*\*\*ing n\*\*\*\*\*s."

### **3. February 9, 2017 Threats to an Islamic cultural center**

On February 9, 2017, PETER FRATUS left two voicemails with an Islamic cultural center. FRATUS used the same phone number as he used to threaten the Congresswoman.

In the first voicemail, FRATUS identified himself as a "concerned American" and left a message for the "dirty muslims," "sand n\*\*\*\*\*s," and "desert monkeys." FRATUS stated that Islam was a "child molesting f\*\*\*ing cult" whose members "molest little boys." FRATUS then threatened, "you won't be here for long" because "everyone is coming for you." FRATUS further threatened, "you all are going to burn, we are coming for you, ok, you, your children, your parents, you dirty terrorist scum." FRATUS also stated "get on your f\*\*\*ing knees and bow to Mecca because we are about to blow that shit up too, bitch, you and your f\*\*\*ing foundation. You won't be here much longer." FRATUS concluded by saying, "you f\*\*\*ing scum sucking c\*\*\*."

In the second message, FRATUS stated, "just remember when you kneel down on your knees where you belong . . . you are kneeling down to the white man . . . ." FRATUS continued, "you are not pointing to the east, you are pointing to our d\*\*\*\*\*, because . . . you Arab women need them in your mouth." FRATUS commented, "don't make us grab you by the p\*\*\*\*, like your men do."

### **4. April 2016 Threats to Palestinian-American Businessman and Police**

On April 7, 2016, PETER FRATUS walked into a business in Massachusetts owned by a Palestinian-American businessman. FRATUS accused the businessman of being a terrorist. FRATUS then pointed to an African-American customer and told him that he was responsible for bringing all the drugs onto Cape Cod because he was black. When FRATUS pushed another customer, employees escorted FRATUS outside and held him down until police could arrive.

Police officers placed FRATUS under arrest and took him to a hospital for evaluation of his injured ankle. When FRATUS arrived at the hospital, he became belligerent towards the police officers. FRATUS told the attending officers “you are a f\*\*\*ing asshole” and noted that “everyone wants to kill police.” When a nurse told FRATUS to keep his voice down because there were other patients and children nearby, FRATUS replied, “You are a f\*\*\*ing idiot.” When hospital personnel tried to move him to a private room, FRATUS flailed his arms to try to prevent them from moving him.

FRATUS was convicted of disorderly conduct at trial and sentenced to a fine.

## **5. September 2015 Attacks on Homeless People**

On September 26, 2015, Boston Police Officers responded to an assault and battery in progress in the area of Summer and Otis Streets in Boston. According to the police report, PETER FRATUS was walking down Summer Street yelling obscenities and racial slurs to the homeless people in the area. FRATUS then attacked one homeless man by punching him in the head and knocking him to the ground. Once the victim was on the ground, FRATUS began to kick the victim in the head. FRATUS continued to kick the victim in the head until a bystander who was walking to work intervened and pulling him off the victim. FRATUS then followed the bystander, stated “let’s do this,” and then attacked the bystander.

## **6. September 2011 Assault on an African-American Woman**

On September 5, 2011, Boston police officers arrested PETER FRATUS for assaulting an African-American female. According to the police report, a witness observed PETER FRATUS chase the victim down the street while the victim was screaming and crying. The victim frantically asked a bystander to use her phone to call the police because FRATUS was attacking her. The victim reported to police that FRATUS punched her multiple times, kicked her in the back, and pulled out her hair extensions. The victim was transported to this hospital for treatment.

## **7. September 2005 Assault on a MBTA Inspector**

On September 8, 2005, PETER FRATUS attempted to gain access to a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) train station without paying the fare. According to the police report, when confronted by an MBTA inspector, FRATUS struck the inspector multiple times. The inspector sustained injuries to his head, back, right arm, and right leg. When an ambulance arrived, the police officers reported that FRATUS became “combative and belligerent” with the emergency medical technicians.

## **8. Other Criminal Record**

In addition, FRATUS also has the following prior convictions:

2009 – DUI and driving with a suspended license

2009 – Receiving stolen property (felony)

## **II. CHARGES**

As a result of his June 6, 2020 threats to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner, FRATUS is currently charged with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c) for sending interstate threatening communications. The maximum punishment for this offense is five years in prison, three years' supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. The government's investigation continues and additional charges either in this district or elsewhere are possible.

At time of the instant offense, PETER FRATUS was on probation for the March 2019 assault on a law enforcement officer conviction. According to his probation officer, a violation report is pending.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

When all these factors are viewed in light that the defendant committed this offense while on probation for assaulting a police officer, it is clear that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the presence of the defendant as required and/or the safety of the community. The government respectfully submits that its Motion for Defendant's Pretrial Detention should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. McSwain  
United States Attorney

/s/ Robert J. Livermore  
Robert J. Livermore  
Assistant United States Attorney

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>v.</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>MAGISTRATE NO. 20-1000</b>
<b>PETER FRATUS</b>	<b>:</b>	

**PRETRIAL DETENTION ORDER**

AND NOW, this            day of June, 2020, after an evidentiary hearing and argument of counsel for the government and the defendant, the Court finds that:

- (a)    the government has proved by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required; and
- (b)    the government has proved by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of other persons and the community, as required by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3142(e).

The Court makes the following findings of fact:

This case is appropriate for detention under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3142(e) because:

- 1.        There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has violated 18 U.S.C. § 875(c) for sending threatening communications to the Philadelphia Police Commissioner.
- 2.        The evidence in this case is strong. The defendant admitted sending the

threatening e-mails.

3. The defendant has a history of threatening and assaultive conduct. At the time of this incident, he was on probation for assaulting a police officer.

4. The strength and nature of the case against the defendant, and the defendant's history of violence establishes the defendant's danger to the community and increases the high risk that the defendant will not appear as required by the Court.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that the defendant be committed to the custody of the Attorney General for confinement in a correction facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal; that the defendant be afforded reasonable opportunity for private consultation with counsel; and that, on order of a Court of the United States, or on request of an attorney for the government, the person in charge of the corrections facility in which the defendant is confined deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

BY THE COURT:

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HONORABLE  
United States Magistrate Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the government's motion for pretrial detention will be served upon defense counsel after the entry of appearance.

/s/ Robert J. Livermore  
Robert J. Livermore  
Assistant United States Attorney

Date: June 17, 2020